

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Extending the IT Revolution to Health Care

Why Does the Health Care Industry Lag Behind?

How Do We Bridge the Gap?

**What: Government Reform Committee Oversight Hearing:
“The Last Frontier: Bringing the IT Revolution to Health Care”**

When: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2005 at 10:00 A.M.

Where: ROOM 2154, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

Background:

Information Technology (IT) has brought tremendous increases in efficiency and productivity to almost all sectors of the American economy. IT enables companies and organizations to store, analyze, and share information, thereby eliminating waste and lowering costs while improving the quality and types of products and services available to consumers.

The U.S. health care industry lags well behind other industry sectors in its investment in and adoption of IT. Although the health care industry makes up approximately 15 percent of the nation’s Gross Domestic Product, it has yet to embrace and implement unified IT solutions industry-wide due to significant financial, legal, and technical obstacles. This hearing will focus on those issues and challenges that remain before information technology can be adopted widely by the health care sector.

The development of the health IT strategy promises several benefits: improved quality of health care, reduction in medical errors, and lower health care costs. The Committee will examine the progress and challenges associated with the development of a national health IT strategy, and the development of standards for the collection and use of health information to facilitate information sharing. The Committee will also consider the challenges to achieving interoperability among health IT systems.

Witnesses:

Panel I

David J. Brailer, M.D., Ph.D., National Coordinator for Health Information Technology,
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Robert M. Kolodner, M.D., Chief Health Informatics Officer, Veterans Health
Administration

Panel II

Mr. David Powner, Director, Information Technology Management Issues, Government
Accountability Office

Panel III

Carol Diamond, M.D., Managing Director, Markle Foundation

Ms. Janet M. Marchibroda, Chief Executive Officer, eHealth Initiative and Foundation

Ms. Diane M. Carr, Associate Executive Director, Healthcare Information Systems

Mr. Larry Blue, Vice President and General Manager, Symbol Technologies

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